10. Leaves of *C. jamaicensis* woven into a useful and attractive basket.

near Grant's Pen, *Read 1679*. St. Andrew Parish: base of Long Mt. near August Town, *Read 1564*. Clarendon Parish: Curatoe Hill, *Read 1665;* intersection May Pen and Lionel Town Rds., *Read 1677*. Manchester Parish: 49 mi. marker near Gut River, *Read 1687*. St. Elizabeth Parish: Bideford District, S. W. of Malvern in the Santa Cruz Mts., *Webster & Proctor 5312* (IJ); between Font Hill and Scott's Cove, *Proctor & Mullings 21975* (IJ). Westmoreland Parish: 22 mi. marker near Negril Beach, *Proctor 11113* (IJ); *Read 1571, 1613, 1674, 1683.*

DISTRIBUTION: endemic.

Coccothrinax jamaicensis is a highly variable species widely distributed along the coastal regions of the island from sea level to an altitude of nearly 1,500 feet and on a variety of substrates. The silver thatch is never found far inland nor in areas of heavy rainfall and good soil. Rather, it occurs on steep mountain slopes or cliffs of limestone, deeply eroded "dog-tooth" limestone and sand just behind the beach.

On the north coast of Jamaica, between Discovery Bay (Dry Harbour) and Rio Bueno in the parish of St. Ann, the Queen's Highway runs through an area of sharply eroded "dog-tooth" limestone at the base of high limestone cliffs. This area, exposed to northeast breezes, has a fair amount of rainfall but because of the nature of the porous rock and lack of soil or humus is rather xerophytic. The silver thatch growing here (Fig. 6) on apparently bare rock among *Agave*, cacti, and other xerophytic plants, is tall and very slender with the trunk only 5-8 cm. in diameter and usually with a crown of small leaves with the brightest silvery undersurfaces.

Along the drier, often highly xerophytic south coast of Jamaica, the silver thatch is found in scattered populations in small ravines, on exposed mountain cliffs and on gently sloping regions of thorn scrub associated with broken or eroded limestone. In the parish of St. Thomas near Grant's Pen, *Coccothrinax jamaicensis* is found in light woods along the protected slopes of a ravine in a very dry area. The plants growing on limestone outcrops in light shade with heavy soil close about the roots have heavy trunks 10-15 cm. in diameter and produce large, nearly flat leaves forming a rather large crown. A short distance up the ravine, where it opens into a small dry valley of scanty soil and an abundance of eroded limestone, the vegetation is sparse and thorny and the scattered silver thatch palms exposed to full sun and wind are tall and slender (trunk diameter 5-8 cm.) with a small crown of glistening leaves. The silvery undersurface of the leaves of plants growing in the protected areas is not as pronounced as it is on plants growing in the exposed situations.

To the west, in the parish of St. Andrew, on the seaward-facing slopes of the Port Royal Mountains above the Cane River, the silver thatch is abundant on dry limestone and marl cliffs exposed to strong southeast winds. The plants here are tall and slender, and the leaves are so silvery as to be seen

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from far away. A short distance westward, on the lower slopes of Dallas and Long Mountains along the Hope River, the silver thatch is found both on limestone outcrops closely associated with soil (as at Grant's Pen) and on steep scree slopes of broken rock and soil. Rainfall is sparse and seasonal, and the runoff is rapid. Plants growing here in the light woods protected from strong drying winds are short (2- 3 m. tall), have heavier trunks (10-20, cm. in diameter) and the leaves and crown are larger with the silver less pronounced.

Further west, near Curatoe Hill south of May Pen in the parish of Clarendon, the silver thatch is found as scattered individuals on limestone outcrops and well drained soils. The region is exceedingly dry during the winter months and although it may rain heavily during the summer showers, the area has a very arid character throughout most of the year. The palms here are uniformly heavy-stemmed (15-20 cm. in diameter), usually tall (3-5 m.) and with large dense crowns of large leaves which are brilliantly silvery beneath (Fig. 7). South of this region, on dry, lightly wooded hills overlooking the sea, are some exceptionally tall (to 7 or 8 m.) slender-stemmed individuals with bright silvery foliage exposed to the strong sea breezes.

Westward on the lower slopes of the Carpenter Mountains in the parish of Manchester, the silver thatch is found on rocky cliffs and hills exposed to strong sea breezes, while near the western border of the parish of St. Elizabeth, it is found in light woods and thorn scrub. In both of these areas, the plants growing on exposed limestone are usually very tall with slender stems and have a smaller crown of leaves than those in protected situations or on rocky soils.

A peculiar situation exists in the region of Negril Beach at the westernmost end of the island in the parish of Westmoreland (near mile marker 22 miles from Lucea). In a small area of not more than 30 acres, a population of *Coccothrinax* is growing at sea level on sandy substrate (similar to beach sand) with a very high water table. In fact, there is frequently standing water all around the area with only a foot or two of difference in elevation between the standing water and the palms. In this region of almost no strong sea breezes and no long dry periods it is most interesting to find *C. jamaicensis* growing under conditions so contrary to its usual habitat.

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Errata for volume 10:

page 63, col. 2, line 45 *for* who do not recog nize *read* who do recognize

page 91, fig. 3 reversed

page 64, col. 1, line 27, col. 2, line 1 *delet* at his own expense.

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